REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 15 and 16 are pending in this case. Claim 15 is amended by the present amendment. Support for amended Claim 15 can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.[1] No new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Worrell (U.S. Patent No. 6,690,425) in view of Hiroi (U.S. Patent No. 6,204,887).

The Official Action cites Worrell as disclosing Applicant's invention with the exception of the capability to display multiple video signals on the screen. The Official Action cites Hiroi as disclosing this feature and states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references to arrive at Applicant's claims. Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 15 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

In an exemplary, non-limiting embodiment of the Applicant's invention, multiple input video signals are received by the picture processing apparatus as shown in Figure 5. A data processor (5) determines whether or not an input video signal has a non-picture portion added to the periphery of the effective picture area. In operation, the picture processor (7) performs a process for placing pictures corresponding to multiple video signals at proper positions on a display (13) as shown in Figures 7C and 10D. This process is performed by detecting a format of an input image, extracting a signal of the effective picture area from the

[1] E.g., specification at least at p. 11, lines 12-15; p. 12, lines 12-17; and p. 22, lines 1-5.

input video signals for images having non-picture portions and interpolating the video signals at proper timings so that the effective image areas are displayed.[2]

Therefore, since the method and apparatus of the claimed invention combines the effective image areas, the images do not become excessively small during the multiple-picture display process by virtue of their non-picture portions. In this way, each respective portion of the multiple picture image areas is effectively used in its entirety during a multiple-picture display process as the letterbox and side panel portions of the image sources are not shown, or are extracted, from the imaging area.

Turning to the applied primary reference, Worrell describes an aspect ratio control arrangement in which a user defined aspect ratio of a display device may be adjusted based on a detected format of a received image signal. When a change in aspect ratio format of an incoming signal occurs that would otherwise produce a distorted image, a format controller automatically overrides the user's predefined aspect ratio to display the image signal without distortion.[3] Thus, Worrell's device receives a signal of a specific format from a single input (502), and adjusts the aspect ratio, regardless of the user's setting, so that the image is displayed on the display (506) without distortion.

Worrell, however, fails to teach or suggest that his apparatus includes an ID detecting portion and an additional information detecting portion, as recited in amended Claim 15.

Specifically, amended independent Claim 15 recites, *inter alia*, a picture processing apparatus, comprising:

> ...***an ID detecting portion configured to detect a picture format of the plurality of input video signals of the plurality of sources based on a picture format of an input video signal,***
> an additional information detecting portion configured to detecting additional information superimposed with the plurality of video signals of the plurality of sources...

[2] Id. at least at page 14, line 25 to page 15 line 2.
[3] Worrell at abstract.

Worrell describes that his device includes a format detector (512), which is coupled to a decoder and a format controller (512) and detects a change in the source aspect ratio of the incoming video source signal.[4] Specifically, for digital source material, the format detector (512) can monitor the bitstream information that includes a source aspect ratio for the material which is embedded in the bitstream. For analog source material, the format detector (512) can monitor the chrominance signal for a DC offset that can exist when there is a 16:9 aspect ratio signal being received.

However, Worrell's device does not include both an "ID detecting portion" and "an additional information detecting portion", as recited in amended independent Claim 15. As described in an exemplary, non-limiting embodiment, at p. 11-13 of the specification, the ID detecting portion detects the format of an input image, such as determining if the signal is a digital broadcast signal received via the D terminal, a standard television signal received via the S terminal, an HDTV signal received via a three pin terminal, etc. Thus, the ID detecting portion determines not only whether the signal is analog or digital, but detects the ***format*** (e.g., HDTV, digital broadcast D1-D5, etc.). Then, based on this detection, the device is capable of "extracting a signal of the effective picture area" and resizing and adjusting the location of this signal so that it can be displayed with other extracted image signals.

In contrast, Worrell simply describes that his device monitors a bitstream of a digital signal for a signal indicating an aspect ratio, and monitors the chrominance signal of an analog signal for a DC offset to determine the aspect ratio of the signal. Thus, while Worrell may describe an additional information detecting portion (i.e., monitor bitstreams for embedded signals), the reference clearly fails to teach or suggest ***an ID detecting portion configured to detect a picture format of the plurality of input video signals of the plurality***

[4] Id., col. 3, lines 23-27.

of sources based on a picture format of an input video signal, as recited in amended independent Claim 15.

Further, as Hiroi is relied upon only to teach displaying multiple video signals on a single display screen, Applicant respectfully submits that Hiroi also fails to teach or suggest the above distinguished feature recited in amended independent Claim 15.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn. As Claim 16 depends from independent Claim 15, it is submitted that this claim also patentably defines over Worrell and/or Hiroi for at least the reasons discussed above.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by claims 15-16 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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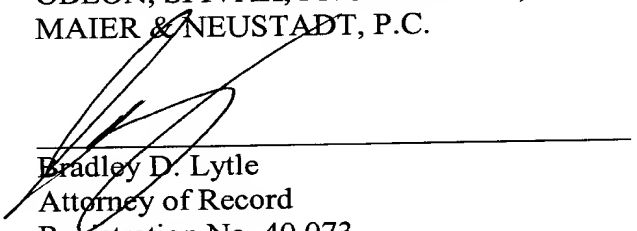

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